proofing in Gujarat for assisting the State Government in solving water supply problem.

Decline in per capita availability of water

1770. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for decline in the per capita availability of water in the country;

(b) the steps Government are contemplating for a comprehensive and integrated approach to water management especially in the context of its demand;

(c) if so, the details of measures proposed to be adopted by Government in this regard; and

(d) whether there has been any evaluation of the previous national water policies to ascertain the causes responsible for the decline?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) The Average annual precipitation in the country remains more or less fixed according to the natural hydrologic cycle. The per capita average annual water availability in the country is reducing progressively owing to increasing population. The average annual per capita water availability is estimated to be about 1829 Cu.m. in 2001 AD at national level.

National Water Policy (1987) provides for integrated management of water resources with basin as a unit of development encouraging construction of major, medium and minor schemes. Water resources development is taken up by the State Governments according to this policy. In order to meet the growing demand of water, apart from medium and minor schemes, a live storage capacity of 177 BCM has been created by construction of large dams upto 1995. Projects to add in additional storage capacity of about 75 BCM are under construction and 132 BCM are under planning. The replenishable ground water is of the order of 432 BCM, out of which about 154

BCM has been developed for use. With the help of these storages and other minor irrigation schemes an irrigation potential of about 100 Mha is likely to have been created by the end of the Ninth Plan against the ultimate irrigation potential of 139.9 Mha in the country.

As a long term measure National Water Development Agency of Government of India have formulated National Perspective Plan for water resources development which envisages interlinking between various Peninsular rivers and Himalayan rivers for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit basins. Government of India is also promoting rain water harvesting through Watershed Management Programme, artificial recharge of ground water and roof-top rain water harvesting under the sector reform project of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme under the Ministry of Rural Development, for which technical and financial assistance is provided to the State Government and other implementing agencies. Central Ground Water Board has also taken up pilot studies for artificial ground water recharge. Assistance is also extended to State Governments under Command Area Development Programme for bridging the gap between potential created and utilised. For early completion of ongoing irrigation projects Government of India is extending central loan assistance to State Governments under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme. The National Water Policy (1987) has been evaluated in the light of various shortcomings and emerging challenges including decline in water availability. The revised National Water Policy draft is now awaiting approval of the National Water Resources Council for adoption.

Modernisation of KC Canal

1771. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:
SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has sought assistance for modernisation of KC Canal for execution of medium irrigation projects;